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THE LATE BARON CUVIER.

WHILE France and learned Europe are still engaged in deploring the loss of this illustrious man, and in pronouncing splendid eulogiums upon his memory, we shall take this opportunity of paying our simple tribute, in the shape of a summary of his life and labors: even the briefest record of these must constitute no mean monument of his fame.

GEORGE CUVIER was born at Montbeillard, in the year 1769. Yet he was, strictly speaking, not a Frenchman. Montbeillard, at the period of his birth, and for more than a quarter of a century after, belonged to the Duchy of Wurtemberg; it was eventually included, by republican France, in the newly-formed department of the Upper Rhine. The father of M. Cuvier was a Swiss: after serving for forty years in the French armies, and attaining the rank of a chevalier, he retired on a pension as commandant of artillery at Montbeillard.

The capital of Wurtemberg was chosen as the scene of young Cuvier's education. At Stuttgard he devoted himself to the study of mathematics, philosophy, law, and jurisprudence; and it deserves to be noted, that the chief object of the courses laid down for him was to qualify him for a place in the administration, for his family is said to have had some interest with, and some claims on, the reigning Duke Charles. But the French Revolution produced great changes. We find our student suddenly transferred from Stuttgard to the coast of Normandy. At Stuttgard he is known to have derived, from the mountainous scenery and other local peculiarities, many of those impressions which were afterwards so admirably developed in his maturer views of natural history; and at Stuttgard too he had tried his strength in the various learned societies which were found there. Removed now to his Norman residence, in the 20th year of his age, as a tutor in the family of a French nobleman, he had his first opportunity of indulging in those favorite pursuits which ultimately stamped him as perhaps the greatest naturalist the world ever saw. It was not long till he had dissected, described, and drawn, almost all the fishes that were to be met with on the coast of La Manche; and here it was that he made his grand and original observations on the structure of the molluscous tribe.

We next find him in Paris, engaged as a private lecturer. He was soon appointed as an assistant to Professor Mertrud, in the course of comparative anatomy at the Museum of Natural History; and imme-

distely admitted a member of most of the learned societies of the French metropolis. Of the Institut, which was organized in 1796, he was one of the earliest members; and the numerous memoirs and discoveries which he laid before that body, rapidly extended his reputation, while they formed the bases of many of his subsequent publications. Before he was 29 he received the Chair of Natural History at the Ecole Centrale; and in 1798 published his first separate work—the *Tableau Elementaire de l'Histoire Naturelle des Animaux*. This was the basis of the *Règne Animal*; it presented a new arrangement of the whole animal kingdom—the principles of which, however, had been already given by him in a memoir on a new division of the white-blooded animals, written at the age of 26, when he first ventured to attack Linnaeus's division of the invertebrata into the meagre and confused classes of insects and worms. His own division, at the same time it should be noticed, of invertebrated animals into the three now well-known classes, was not adopted by him until the year 1812.

In the meantime, the materials of his courses of lectures on comparative anatomy were attaining a vast extent, and he determined to give them to the public. With this view they were reduced to form by his two able assistants, MM. Dumeril and Duvernoy; and, in 1800, were accordingly published as the first two volumes of the *Leçons d'Anatomie Comparée*. M. Cuvier was himself engaged, during the compilation of those volumes, with the excavations of the gypsum strata of Montmartre, and the comparison of the bones discovered there, with the skeletons in the Museum. In the remainder of the work, which appeared in 1805, the parts which relate to the organization of insects and molluscous animals were exclusively his own, and probably no other anatomist then living was equally qualified to undertake those obscure and difficult subjects of zootomy. The *Leçons* altogether are known to comprise the most perspicuous, correct, and complete systematic view of the science to be found in any language.

He succeeded Mertrud, in 1802, in the professorship of comparative anatomy; and here we cannot help pausing for a moment to contemplate the wide—the magnificent—range which he allowed himself, in the pursuit of his favorite science. Had his researches in comparative anatomy been conducted only in connexion with human, his illustrations and his contributions to the science could scarcely have extended beyond a few classes in the animal kingdom. If in connection with geology alone, his knowledge would have been mostly limited to the hard parts. Zoology, unaided by his general acquirements in comparative anatomy, would perhaps have been in danger of suffering additional confusion of arrangement. But with his unrivaled combination of qualities of mind, and ardor in the pursuit of all those collateral investigations which should be brought to bear on the one great end in view, M. Cuvier was enabled to attain a degree of excellence, as a comparative anatomist, which has never yet been equaled, and, in the lapse of ages, may possibly be long ere it be surpassed.

When Buonaparte returned from Egypt, and, after having been declared First Consul, was vain enough to permit himself to be chosen President of the Institut, Cuvier, who was one of the secretaries of that

body, was necessarily brought into frequent intercourse with his future sovereign. The grand scheme of organizing the schools of France made this intercourse still more intimate, and Cuvier was appointed one of the six Inspectors General, whose business it was to establish Lyceums in the thirty principal cities of the kingdom. It was while on this mission, at Marseilles, that he so profitably employed his leisure moments in investigating the ichthyology of the Mediterranean.

Those examinations of the Montmartre strata, constitute an era in geology; they were the continued labor of many years, and were crowned by the publication of the *Recherches sur les Ossements Fossiles*, in seven volumes, 4to. 1812-1834. In this great work M. Cuvier embodied not only the information which he derived from his personal inquiries in the neighborhood of Paris, on his several visits to the interior of France; and on his missions to Italy and Holland, but the abundant stores of knowledge which he procured from the correspondence of the most distinguished naturalists in all parts of Europe. The success of his labors in identifying the fossil bones of the mammali, deservedly obtained for him the highest celebrity, while it afforded the most convincing proof of the utility of zoatomical knowledge, as applied to geological investigations, that has ever been found in the records of science. No naturalist, indeed, ever enjoyed such opportunities as M. Cuvier for those particular researches; but perhaps no man ever possessed, in a more eminent degree, all the requisite qualifications for their successful employment. His indefatigable industry and enthusiasm—his extensive general knowledge—the beauty of his language, and the elevated tone of his descriptions, with the grandeur of his views, and the sublime truths which they unfold, regarding the past revolutions of the animal kingdom and the globe we inhabit, must convince every one that there was really no other individual living who could have so successfully performed what he accomplished in regard to the restoration of extinct species.

We shall not attempt, in this limited sketch, to introduce any further remarks relative to the *Ossements Fossiles*; nor do we think it necessary to more than allude to the eloquent *Preliminary discourse* with which the work commences,—a discourse which, even had its author never written anything else, would have perpetuated his name to a late posterity. It has been translated into several languages, and the English version, by Professor Jameson, has gone through several large editions.

In 1808 Cuvier was appointed one of the Councillors for life of the newly-erected Imperial University—an office which gave him frequent occasions of discussing political affairs before the Council of State and in presence of the Emperor. He was sent, in 1809-10, to organize the academies of the Italian states; and his arrangements at Turin, Genoa, and Pisa, were found so advantageous that, on the return of the sovereigns of these states, the numerous measures adopted by Cuvier were preserved inviolate. Subsequently, in Holland and the Hanse-towns, the changes and nominations which he made were similarly respected and preserved; and, what is still more worthy of being recorded, though a protestant by country, birth, and education, he was yet sent, in 1813, to reorganize the University of Rome; and many of his improvements in La Sapienza were retained even after the return of the Pope.

It might be thought that the labor of collecting materials for such a work as the Fossil Organic Remains, and the task of arranging and describing them, were sufficient to have occupied the greater portion of M. Cuvier's life: but we have seen what some of his other occupations were, and to these we shall now add one fact more, relative to the work just alluded to. M. Cuvier found leisure not only to execute the drawings for, but even to engrave with his own hand, some of the most detailed osteological plates which adorn the several volumes.

But we have still other works of his to notice. His writings and researches were by no means confined to topics connected with the animal creation. He was in the habit of collecting, in his leisure hours, the most interesting historical facts illustrative of the progress of science, and of examining the scientific labors, and composing biographical memoirs, of the eminent members of the Institut, for many years back. Of these memoirs, a collection has been published in three volumes, and they serve perfectly to establish his claim to an acquaintance with all the physical sciences, and the march of discovery in each of their various departments. The style in which they are written is easy, elegant, and perspicuous, and not a murmur has ever been breathed against their strict impartiality and truth.

The *Règne Animal* made its first appearance, in four volumes, in the year 1817—a work which is universally allowed to constitute the best outline of the present state of zoology and comparative anatomy. It was here that he may be said to have ultimately adopted his quadripartite division of the animal kingdom, after an experience of thirty years. Faults have been found, it is true, with this somewhat arbitrary division. It has been even characterised as not very uniform or philosophical, and as perhaps too much fettered by the author's early ideas of classification. But, on the whole, it is allowed to be a classical work, and is justly adopted, as the great standard of reference, by the ablest naturalists of every country. We need be the more brief in our notice of it, in consequence of its being, after the Preliminary Discourse, that work of M. Cuvier's which is perhaps best appreciated by the English public.

It is pretty generally known, that the great undertaking on which his heart was set to the last moment of his life, was a complete system of comparative anatomy. For this vast enterprise, which he intended to surpass all that he had yet achieved, and to which he has alluded in all his publications—which was, in fact, the great study of his life, and the idol of his thoughts, during nearly his whole career—he had prepared an immense series of drawings and engravings; and, indeed, the Museum of Comparative Anatomy owes its origin to his strong desire of accomplishing this beloved object. What he has done for the class of fishes—and which he always looked upon as by far the most important of all his contributions to the natural history of vertebrated animals—may be contemplated as an earnest of what he would have done. It is said that he and Valenciennes, his colleague, had collected materials for an account of above 6,000 species of fish, 5,000 of which, it was calculated, would occupy the space of not less than twenty octavo volumes.

We have now noticed, however briefly, the principal scientific occu-

pations of M. Cuvier ; but, vast and all-engrossing as they seem, they must be absolutely considered as the pastime of his leisure, when taken in connection with his functions in the state. Those functions, in fact, he always considered as his original destiny—the business to the conduct of which his early education was directed. He was about to be named a Councillor of State by Napoleon, when the events of 1814 occurred to prevent that high distinction. It was, however, delayed only ; for in that same year he was named to the office by Louis XVIII. In 1815, he was retained as a member of the Commission of Public Instruction, and charged with the chancellorship of the university. During the “hundred days,” his connection with the Council of State was suspended ; but even then he continued to hold his important situations connected with public instruction.

From all cabals and political intrigues, M. Cuvier ever kept aloof—a course of conduct which was sure to gain for him, as it did, the insidious hostility of numerous partisans. He was chiefly engaged with state business relating to the administration of the interior, and the regulation of the non-conformist religious sects ; and, besides this, was entrusted as King’s Advocate, to defend before the Chambers all the principal projects of law.

It was while on a scientific visit, some years ago, to England, that he was apprised of his having been elected, during his absence, one of the Forty—constituting the Academie Française—the highest distinction that pre-eminent talents can obtain in France or in Europe. Soon after, he did not hesitate to decline the Ministry of the Interior, being dissatisfied with some of the terms on which it was offered to him. In 1819, he was named President of the Interior of the Committee of the Council of State, a place which he was anxious for, as unconnected with intrigue, but demanding method, constant activity, rigid discharge of duty, and a thorough acquaintance with the laws and principles of administration. He was created a baron after this, a spontaneous mark of favor from his sovereign, and received several orders, both from the King of France and the King of Wurtemberg, his early protector.

But we will not attempt to enumerate the various honors and marks of distinction heaped upon Baron Cuvier from all quarters, as for a like reason we have not ventured even to allude to all the various publications to which he contributed his powerful assistance ; either attempt would fill several pages of our journal. We must even now draw our brief notice rapidly to a close.

With all his mighty achievements in science, and almost every branch of human knowledge, no man, were one to judge from his personal bearing, would seem to have achieved less. In the enjoyment of competent wealth, influence, profound learning, and the highest fame, M. Cuvier’s easy and unaffected manners never failed to command the love and esteem of all who had the honor of enjoying his acquaintance. Many in England, which he again visited not very long ago, will ever remember him with veneration and delight. His very look was calculated to impress respect and admiration. In his domestic circle, his deportment is described as having been amiable to the highest degree.

The circumstances of the death of Baron Cuvier we shall append in some detail. His funeral honors were performed with unusual magnificence. They were attended by not less than between four and five thousand persons, including all those who were of any literary or scientific pretensions in Paris; and the orations pronounced over him, by the representatives of the different learned societies with which he was connected, were remarkable for their number and impressive eloquence. Their theme could not have been a more fertile one; for their illustrious subject was universally admitted to have been guided in his great career by nothing but the pure love of knowledge, and the ardent desire to benefit his race. His labors, in a word, will merit the gratitude and command the admiration of posterity.—*Medical Gazette.*

[An interesting account of the last-sickness and of the death of Baron Cuvier will be given in a future number.]

SPONTANEOUS EVOLUTON OF THE FŒTUS IN UTERO.

Case of Spontaneous Evolution of the Fœtus in Utero, after the Liquor Amnii had been discharged, and the Uterus contracted. By SILAS JAMES, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE term spontaneous, as here used, was first employed by Denman, for expressing the series of effects terminating in an evolution of the child, wholly independent of the practitioner, and it is now employed by all writers on obstetrics. The fœtus in utero was, by Hippocrates, compared, in shape and movement, to an olive in a bottle having a throat large enough only to allow it to pass lengthways. When the shoulders or sides of the body present, delivery is prevented until the child turns one or the other of its extremities to the os uteri, which we are directed to assist the uterus in accomplishing, by pressing the head and upper part of the trunk upward, and then bringing down the lower extremities, so as to make a footling case of it. Authors have differed in opinion as to the most suitable time for endeavoring to accomplish this by manual effort. Baudeloque and Hunter recommend its being done the moment after the waters are discharged, the os uteri being dilated. Clarke advises its being done before the membranes are broken, and says if we take it when the os uteri will admit the finger and knuckles, it is the better time, because we then turn the child as if in a bucket of water. These directions, however, do not apply to cases where the practitioner, when first called, finds the waters have been long discharged, and the shoulder of the child is jammed at the superior aperture of the pelvis. Here we are directed to pass the finger and thumb, in the form of a crutch, into the armpit of the child, in order to raise the body towards its head, and towards the fundus of the uterus, till it has sufficiently moved out of our way to allow of the introduction of the hand into the uterus. But in some cases, when we are first called, the shoulder, says Denman, is so far advanced into the pelvis,

and the action of the uterus at the same time so strong, that it is impossible to raise or move the child, which is so strongly impelled by the pains as to overcome all the force we are able to exert. "This impossibility of turning the child, has, to the apprehension of all writers and practitioners, left the woman without any hope of relief." "But in a case of this kind," continues Denman, "I was so fortunate as to observe, though it was not in my power to pass my hand into the uterus, to turn the child, that, by the mere effect of the action of the uterus, an evolution took place, and the child was expelled by the breech." The following case was equally as hopeless as the above, and demonstrates the great power possessed by the uterus to overcome what were, before the time of Denman, considered as insuperable obstacles to safe delivery.

I was called to deliver Mrs. B., a lady of small stature and narrow pelvis, who had been attended in labor, during the previous twelve hours, by a young practitioner, who had discovered an arm presentation of the child. The waters had been discharged some days previous. I found the right arm without the os tince, in a situation for the palm of the hand to receive mine as in shaking hands. Her pains were severe and regular. It was concluded to attempt turning, preparatory to which, I gave her 80 drops of laudanum, and, after a third dose of that quantity, succeeded in allaying the pains and inducing drowsiness. After preparing the hand, I attempted to introduce it, and found the fetus lying across the brim of the pelvis, and pressed so hard, that it was impossible to return the arm to remain any longer than while held with my hand, and that the child was in all respects immoveably fixed; nor was it possible, on account of the long evacuation of the water, and hard contraction of the uterus, to introduce a finger, although, at the time, no uterine pains existed. The case was then left for a time to nature, and a gentleman of distinguished skill, Dr. Eldredge, was called in consultation. After a few hours, the pains returned in regular succession; and on his arrival we proceeded to examine again, and, to our great satisfaction, found that nature, unaided by art, had accomplished an evolution, and the woman was safely delivered.

West Greenwich, R. I., July, 1832.

THE SPOTTED FEVER AND THE CHOLERA.

[We gave some account, at the time, of the disease that has recently prevailed in New London. The following communication derives additional interest from the fact that its author saw and treated many of those cases. We should be pleased if he would give us a further account of the symptoms that corresponded and those that did not, and also of the precise treatment that was found so successful in the New London epidemic. Our thanks are due to Dr. Miner for his attentions.]

Middletown, Con., July 25, 1832.

MR. EDITOR,—You will oblige me, and probably the public, by publishing the following letter. It is from a gentleman who has lately

had very extensive experience in the treatment of a sinking disease which bears a close analogy to malignant cholera.

Yours, very respectfully, THOMAS MINER.

New London, July 23d, 1832.

DEAR SIR,—Dr. Mercer handed me your letter, and I shall be gratified if my remarks in answer to it are any way satisfactory. Being delegated by our Board of Health to visit New York, I arrived there on the 7th instant, and remained in the city, studying the disease, cholera; three days. The morning I left New York, Dr. Manwaring, of this place, joined me in the delegation, and our report on returning was this:—That the disease, in all its symptoms, resembled that which prevailed here last spring (an account of which is to be published on Wednesday, in the Gazette newspaper of this place); and that, in regard to treatment, we did not think it could be altered for the better, by adopting any we witnessed in New York. We could not discover any general principle to guide *their* practice. For instance: at the hospital * * *, the physician gave half a grain of camphor, in an ounce of cold water, every twenty-five minutes, and as much and as often in enema. On asking the reason, he stated—The cholera may be owing to animalcula, and camphor was an antidote. To another, ice was given, and with the remark, that there seemed to be a raging, internal fever. On requesting the doctor to put his hand to the patient's mouth, and feel if the breath was hot, it was found cold as the north wind which blew freely over the patients. To another, *one* bottle of hot water was applied to the feet, while his limbs were exposed freely; and this was called the *heating plan*. These patients were all cold as a corpse, and without the least pulse at the wrist. If I mistake not, the name Cholera carries the idea of mystery, and is by many combated blindly; while the simple, clear, and loud indications are disregarded. As a general remark, we stated, on returning, that, excepting with our patients the brain was oftentimes affected, while at New York the bowels were—in all other respects, they resembled each other closely, and, we believed, required the same treatment. They looked alike, before and also after death.

One patient from New York fell under my care [at New London]. She left there the 14th, was ill with what is called the premonitory symptoms the 15th, arrived here the 16th with diarrhoea, and the next night began to puke. On the morning of the 18th, I found her purging rice water freely, and puking a light turbid fluid. She had violent and painful cramps in the calves of her legs, some pain in the head, and more at the epigastrium; pulse ninety, and very weak; skin cool, paucity of urine, and a desire for cold water. Gave her hot brandy toddy once in four hours, a pill of opium and calomel once in two hours (two grains of opium and one of calomel), put hot bricks to her feet, and three blankets over her. In twenty-four hours, the colliquative (as I call them) discharges from the stomach and bowels were arrested completely, and, in thirty-six, she had no complaint but debility. The medicine was diminished gradually, during this time, *pro re nata*, and she rapidly recovered. After forty-eight hours from the time of arresting

the evacuations, she had a bilious discharge from the bowels, without any other medicine except what is mentioned, and passed water in full quantity. I hope the plan may be tried in other places, and should be very much gratified to know the result.—I am, sir, respectfully, your servant and friend,

J. MORGAN.

P. S.—At New York, I saw about fifty patients, all in the hospitals, and more private. Of them, forty, I believe, died; and I further think, had we treated our cases as those I saw in New York, many more would have been lost. Our disease seems to have been something between your sinking typhus and cholera (Asiatic). The only hope in very bad cases is early, prompt, and decisive treatment; otherwise the patient dies.

Remarks.—It is highly gratifying, at last, to find a case of cholera treated according to the general principles of sinking typhus, by a physician familiar with the latter disease. Except the moderate quantity of calomel that was added, the practice was precisely what a case of the same severity of sinking typhus would have required, and the symptoms appear to have been controlled with less difficulty than in ordinary typhus syncopalis. I have no doubt, where the external circumstances are equally favorable, cholera is much the more manageable disease of the two. It appears to have, in general, but one paroxysm of *subidentia*, or death-like sinking of the powers of life. If this is speedily overcome, by bold, energetic, and persevering efforts, upon the same principles as have been successfully practised in New England the last thirty years, the battle is soon fought, and the victory is complete. But, though we occasionally succeed in breaking up and producing a perfect resolution of sinking typhus, within a few hours, this is not generally the case. Commonly, we only mitigate the symptoms for the present, and are obliged to continue the course, though somewhat lessened in activity, for several days, in which we have to treat an irregular typhus, that is liable to diurnal paroxysms of gastric sinking. Typhus syncopalis appears to bear about the same analogy to malignant cholera, as intermittent does to remittent, sporadic catarrh to epidemic catarrh, or, perhaps, more nearly still, the malignant remittent of Batavia to the yellow fever of the West Indies. A physician who is familiar with either of these diseases, can certainly treat its correspondent complaint with sufficient skill and dexterity. I have no hesitation in giving it as my decided opinion, that, if it falls to the lot of the New London physicians to meet with epidemic cholera, their practice will be found to be, by far, more successful than has hitherto been the fact in any city, either on the eastern or western continent.

T. M.

DR. WOOD'S REMARKS ON THE CHOLERA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—My design in the following remarks is to give a summary of the principal exciting causes, the most essential symptoms, and what I

conceive to be the rational treatment, of spasmodic cholera. In describing the disease, I shall dwell more especially upon the first and second stages; deeming the third, or incurable collapse, that point in this disease, as in all others, in which the physician ceases to struggle with death for the mastery.

The principal predisposing causes of cholera are intemperance and poverty. Besides these, we may rank under the same head, fear, grief, anxiety, fatigue, excessive indulgences of any kind, and *all* other causes which have a tendency in any way to weaken the physical powers. After the excitement produced by the abuse of spirituous liquors has subsided, the predisposition in an individual to an attack of the cholera is greater than from any other known cause. But I fear this fact has been dwelt on too much, to the exclusion of one of nearly equal importance. I have reference to that enfeebled state of the constitution which follows, as a consequence, from an impoverished diet. There is a class of temperate poor, whose circumstances in life deprive them of the means of obtaining wholesome food and proper clothing, living in small, dark, damp, and badly-ventilated houses; which does and will suffer more or less from the ravages of this pestilential scourge. In New York, I saw many laboring under these circumstances, and should think it strange if we had not among us some in a similar situation.

The bad effects arising from the use of improper food were remarkably exemplified in the Bellevue Almshouse, New York. This institution is elevated, and pleasantly located on the East River, containing over 2,000 paupers, mostly intemperate and broken down by disease. Their diet, prior to the appearance of the disease, and for some time after, consisted chiefly of Indian meal, with the addition of coarse salt meat, or salt fish, three times a week. The ravages of the disease, very soon after its appearance, were so rapid and frightful, that the city authorities gave freedom to many, and thought it might be necessary to remove the rest to some more healthy situation. Before this was put into operation, the Special Medical Council visited Bellevue, and, after due consideration of all the circumstances that had any bearing on the subject, it was agreed not to remove them, but to recommend a complete change of diet. The beneficial results of this measure were soon perceived. After the third or fourth day, the disease greatly abated, and a decided diminution in the number of new cases has continued daily down to the present time. As a matter of course, many of the inmates who died of cholera had grown temperate from necessity, and others had the credit of being so from choice. Now, if this be true, what is the inference? In addition to this statement, it may be observed, that, at the city hospitals and elsewhere, many children and young persons perished, who, it would not be unreasonable to suppose, had rarely, if ever, partaken of ardent spirits.

During my stay at New York (from the 11th to the 17th of July), I had an opportunity of seeing more than 500 cases of cholera; and, from a careful examination of the patients themselves, and frequent conversation with physicians, I feel little hesitation in expressing my opinion as to the characteristic symptoms of the disease, and the order in which they almost invariably appear. They are—1st, diarrhoea, or purging,

which continues from three hours to as many days; 2d, in addition to purging, which *now* becomes excessive, vomiting; and 3d, from fifteen minutes to an hour after vomiting and purging have commenced, spasms or cramps (generally of the gastrocnemii) ensue. This last symptom does not continue so long as the puking and purging, always disappearing early in the stage of collapse; and so, in the majority of cases, do the first and second.

In what is called the first stage, diarrhœa is the most conspicuous symptom; but there are others, as dizziness, languor, occasional nausea, ringing in the ears, and twitchings of the muscles in various parts of the body. These symptoms, however, are generally overlooked by the patient.

In the first, or diarrhœal stage, I do not mean to imply that because an individual has this derangement of the bowels, he must necessarily have cholera. This is not true in point of fact. When cholera is prevalent, there is a general predisposition to bowel complaints; and this irritable state of the intestinal canal, if long continued, prepares the system for an attack of cholera. We shall therefore continue to consider diarrhœa a precursor of cholera, and, as it is under the perfect control of medicine, recommend to all those who suffer from it to apply seasonably for medical advice.

In the second stage, besides puking, purging, and cramps, there are also other symptoms, viz.:—restlessness; a burning sensation at the pit of the stomach; coldness of the extremities, without any very marked change in the temperature of the body; an accelerated and contracted pulse; an anxious and shrunken face, with sharpened features; eyes dull and sunken, surrounded by a dark brown circle, sometimes of a faint, dirty, bluish tint; tongue moist, and slightly coated; voice hoarse and broken. The discharges in this stage, both up and down, assume the appearance of rice water. This is one of the peculiar characters which distinguish this disease from all others. If the physician is called early in this stage, he may consider himself very fortunate; for if there be a point in the disease truly assailable, it is this; and in this stage *only* can the physician be said to meet death on an equal footing.

With regard to the third stage, or the irrecoverable collapse, I must refer you to authors, who have dwelt more upon it than upon those stages which I conceive to be of vastly more importance to the well-being of suffering humanity; for I do most solemnly assure you that I have never seen or heard, during my stay in New York, of a single case of true collapse being restored—those reported as such being cases of the most aggravated form of the second stage.

For the treatment of the diarrhœal stage, I should recommend abstinence from solids, remaining quiet in the house, and swathing the bowels with flannel; after which, prescribe a simple cathartic, as rhubarb and calcined magnesia, of each ten grains, or castor oil, from half an ounce to an ounce, in some aromatic drink, or calomel two grains, and rhubarb fifteen. If one of these prescriptions does not operate in the course of six hours, repeat it. During the prevalence of cholera, small doses of medicines are particularly advised, because serious consequences sometimes attend the administration of common doses. After the bowels are

fully evacuated, the patient may be allowed a bowl of thin arrowroot, or ground rice well boiled, flavored with cinnamon, adding, if necessary, from two to four table-spoonsfull of old port wine. If these remedies fail, confine the patient to bed, apply hot applications to the abdomen and feet, and give calomel and opium, in small doses, until healthy secretions are restored.

The most successful treatment of the second stage I saw employed in New York, was as follows, viz. :—place the patient between warm blankets ; stop the use of *all* fluids, as they increase the irritability of the stomach ; and, if the pulse is not much depressed, bleed moderately, according to the patient's strength, avoiding an approach to faintness. As there is considerable heat, and often tenderness, over the epigastric region, would not leeching or cupping, followed by a large blister, be advantageous, and, when the pulse is feeble, supply the place of the lancet ? After bleeding, if the vomiting is excessive, let the patient swallow a small piece of ice, to be repeated if necessary ; then give a bolus of ten or twenty grains of calomel and one or two of opium, and every half hour or hour, whether the bolus is retained or not, give pills of calomel and opium, containing from two to five grains of the former, and from a quarter to a half of the latter. Meanwhile, apply hot sinapisms to the abdomen and feet, and hot sand bags, or bottles of hot water, to the body and extremities. At the Greenwich Street Hospital, the physicians employ frictions of strong mercurial ointment, combined with camphor and cayenne pepper, and say, if salivation is produced, the patient recovers. Should the purging continue obstinate, throw up an injection of one or two drachms of laudanum, in a gill of warm water. The cramps are more troublesome now than at any other time. To remove them, rub the affected limbs briskly with flannel or a soft brush, dipped in a saturated solution of camphor in alcohol, or the essential oil of peppermint, or give a smart shock of electricity, or apply a lump of ice suddenly to the sole of the foot. Either of the above remedies was found effectual in relieving them.

External heat and the pills are to be continued until reaction takes place, and the discharges begin to assume a bilious aspect ; after this, the heating applications may be gradually removed, and the pills discontinued or taken at longer intervals. Sometimes reaction is attended with considerable fever, a quick pulse—the tongue being dry and brown, with a red edge—stupor, and dilated pupils. These symptoms, among others not mentioned, constitute what is called the consecutive stage. In all the cases of this stage which I saw, there was decided congestion of the brain ; to relieve which, cupping, blistering, and cold applications to the head, were the remedies employed. But if reaction do not take place, the symptoms of this stage increase in severity, and the third, or stage of collapse, commences. This is known by increased coldness of the trunk and extremities ; blueness of the face, hands, and feet ; a feeble pulse ; and a haggard, shrunken countenance. At this period, the most powerful stimuli, in combination with the above-mentioned treatment, such as oil of peppermint, cajepout oil, ammonia, brandy, &c., may be exhibited. But I am persuaded, so far as my observations have extended, that little confidence is to be placed on these or any other remedial agents.

I saw nothing in the post mortem appearances differing from what has already been described by authors.—Respectfully yours,

JAMES WOOD, M.D.

Boston, July 26th, 1832.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, AUGUST 1, 1832.

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA ON ITS FIRST ATTACK.

In the New York Journal of Commerce, a writer under the signature of "CULLEN," after recommending the stimulating treatment, so generally advised on the first access of the Cholera, goes on to say—

I have recently been strongly confirmed in my views, from the statement of a very intelligent ship master, who, (in two voyages to India, one of them to Calcutta and the other to Manilla, in both of which ports he found cholera prevailing to an alarming extent,) has had ample experience in the treatment of this formidable disease. While at Manilla, his whole crew, with himself, were attacked with cholera; and yet, though some of the cases, and his own in particular, were very severe, *not one of them proved fatal*. Besides, he experienced a slight attack himself at Calcutta. The treatment was as follows: As soon as the symptoms were so urgent as to make it evident that the case was actually cholera, (and generally there was no difficulty in ascertaining this point in a very few minutes, or even at the moment in which a man declared himself unfit for duty,) the captain, without being very scrupulous as to the measure or quantity, put about a hundred drops of laudanum, and nearly as much of the spirit or essence of peppermint, into a wineglass, and filled it with brandy. This he gave the patient immediately. With a few, who were inclined to be intemperate, the dose of brandy was a gill or even more. At the same time, the patient was wrapped in blankets, and heated applications were made to the stomach, abdomen, limbs, and feet. This treatment, applied instantly, controlled the vomiting, purging, pain, cramps, spasms, &c. and removed the coldness and numbness of the extremities, in general, so speedily, that there was seldom occasion to renew the dose, and the disease was usually nipped in the bud. In his own case, which the captain considered as of the severest kind, he remarked, that if he had waited an hour or two for medical assistance, and been entirely ignorant of the proper treatment, his condition would unquestionably have become hopeless in that time.

I have little to add to my former remarks, except to enforce, with renewed earnestness, the *immediate attention to the very first symptoms of Cholera*. It is believed, that nine tenths of the mortality of this disease in Europe, are owing to the delay in procuring medical aid, or to the timidity of the physicians in giving suitable doses of medicine: or to another circumstance, arising from mistaken medical theory. After the symptoms are controlled, most of the foreign practitioners seem to think that there is danger from the very remedies which they have employed;

and this they attempt to remove by bleeding and cathartics. These processes are very liable to produce a relapse, and in general are worse than useless. Further—there is frequently an indecision in keeping the ground that has been gained. The remedies should be generally continued, in diminished, but regular doses, every 2, 3, or 4 hours, and in certain cases much more frequently, as long as there is any apprehension of the return of the symptoms.

The writer who gives us this statement, is one whose experience and acknowledged ability in his profession entitle his opinions to great respect; and the Captain referred to is Captain Nash, who sailed from this city. A similar account we received from a gentleman of high standing, who has spent much time in India, and is recently returned from Calcutta.

CHOLERA AT NEW YORK.

On the 21st ult., there were 291 cases and 94 deaths; on the 22d, 230 cases and 85 deaths; on the 23d, 205 cases and 63 deaths; on the 24th, 239 cases and 79 deaths; on the 25th, 144 cases and 53 deaths; on the 26th, 123 cases and 44 deaths; on the 27th, 119 cases and 41 deaths; on the 28th, 142 cases and 63 deaths. At Bellevue Almshouse, where the disease appears to have nearly accomplished its work, there were but 20 cases and 10 deaths on the 21st; 9 cases and 5 deaths on the 22d; 26 cases and 20 deaths on the 23d; 22 cases and 7 deaths on the 24th; 10 cases and 5 deaths on the 25th; 14 cases and 7 deaths on the 26th; 3 cases and 5 deaths on the 27th; 1 case and 4 deaths on the 28th. On the 24th, at Yorkville and Harlem, near the city, there were 35 cases and 10 deaths; on the 25th, 3 cases and 3 deaths; on the 26th, 4 cases and 4 deaths; on the 28th, 2 cases and 1 death. At the State Prison at Sing Sing, the disease has committed great ravages. At Brooklyn, it prevails somewhat extensively; the number of new cases on the 25th being 17, deaths 4—on the 27th 13, deaths 7.

DAY OF HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

We are truly happy to find that His Excellency Governor Lincoln has appointed a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, in consequence of the threatened visitation of the pestilence that walketh in darkness. Every precaution which wisdom and experience can suggest, ought to be taken to prevent its appearance among us. But since all will be in vain, without the sparing mercy of that Being who controls all events, it becomes us to offer our petitions, with deep sincerity, to our common Father, who holds the rod, so richly merited, in his own hand. We are not threatened, it is true, by the voice of a prophet; but that which saved Nineveh from destruction, may prove no less availing at the present day.

The day appointed by the Governor is the 9th of the present month. And if there be any one that doubts the propriety of this measure, we beg him to read a discourse on the efficacy of prayer, preached at Edinburgh, on a similar occasion, by the celebrated Dr. Chalmers. This powerful and eloquent discourse has been republished in this city, and, at the present day, commends itself with peculiar force to the notice of us all.

PRATT'S ARTIFICIAL NIPPLE.

As a preventive and a cure for irritable, inflamed, excoriated, and fissured nipples, we have never met with anything that promises so much as the invention of Dr. Pratt. It is decidedly an improvement over everything of the kind heretofore in use, and it becomes every mother who is at all subject to the above infirmities, to rejoice that so effectual and speedy a remedy is at hand.

The soft or udder part of this apparatus is tanned in such a way as to render it durable, and yet soft and tasteless; and it is for this mode of tanning, chiefly, that the inventor has procured his patent. It is not wholly for this, however. The form of the metallic part, and the mode in which the udder is confined to it, are greatly superior to those we have been in the habit of using, and the diversity is such as entirely to change the principle on which the instrument acts. It is used with great ease by the nurse or mother, and printed directions, for preserving and applying it, accompany each instrument. We have seen it used by a lady, in whom this part was extremely flat, and so tender as to render the very thought of nursing her child shocking to her. By means of this apparatus, the babe took hold, and emptied the breast without producing the slightest sensation of uneasiness. Indeed, we esteem the thing invaluable.*

Observations on Tobacco, by John Vetch, M.D.—Under other circumstances it had been my intention to give to the public a series of detailed cases, to establish the beneficial effects of tobacco as a local application, and one capable of alleviating, in a great degree, and of sometimes altogether arresting, various forms of specific inflammation, more particularly gout, and rheumatic inflammation attacking the synovial membrane. Besides the power which this vegetable possesses in allaying the pain and abating the inflammation of gout, it assists the parts most materially in recovering their tone and strength.

The sensible effects of tobacco upon the skin and cuticle are readily perceived by immersing, for a short time, the fingers in an infusion, or in a watery solution of the extract.

The infusion forms a valuable application in all cases of erysipelatous inflammation; and the only precaution to be attended to, is not to apply

* Pratt's Artificial Nipple is sold in this city at \$1.25, by the following apothecaries: Charles White, corner of Washington and Winter Streets; L. H. Bradford, corner of Washington and F Street; and Don Lincoln, corner of Salem and Prince Streets.

it to any part contiguous to the stomach, unless the production of nausea be at the same time desirable.

I was led to appreciate the valuable sedative and astringent power of tobacco, in the first instance, by the benefit I derived from it in cases of the last-mentioned class, having many years ago instituted an extensive trial of all the known narcotics, with the expectation of deriving additional aid in the treatment of purulent ophthalmia.

The good and the powerful effects which I obtained from the tobacco, fully compensated for the inefficiency of all the other local applications I then tried. Its effects were notorious to all who saw it employed, and I now, as I ought to have done twenty years sooner, recommend its use to general notice, in cases of acute migratory inflammation, and especially when it attacks the joints, testicle, or sclerotic coat of the eye.

The infusion as directed by the London Pharmacopœia is sufficiently strong, and in many cases it is well to rub the part with eau de Cologne after the use of the tobacco.—*Med. Chir. Transactions.*

New Epidemic in France.—A disease of a formidable nature, and consisting of profuse sweating, with miliary eruption and extreme debility, has manifested itself in some parts of France, and, notwithstanding the presence of cholera, has excited so much attention, that a medical commission has been despatched from Paris, to the infected districts, to examine into its nature.

The Cholera.—The disease appears to have nearly disappeared in Montreal and Quebec. Total number of cases in the latter city, 894; deaths, 562. In Albany, on the 25th ult., new cases, 29: 18 severe; deaths, 7. On the 27th, new cases, 32: 20 severe; deaths, 7. At Philadelphia, one case of malignant cholera was reported on the 24th. One or more cases have also occurred in Bristol and Newport, R. I.; New Brunswick and Elizabethtown, N. J.; and at Hudson, Troy, Buffalo, and Greenbush, N. Y.

The letter from Dr. C., and several other valuable communications, are unavoidably deferred till our next.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending July 27, 28. Males, 9.—Females, 14. Still-born, 2.

Of typhus fever, 2—throat distemper, 2—teething, 1—consumption, 4—intemperance, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—childbed, 2—infantile, 1—measles, 2—scarlet fever, 1—inflammation in the bowels, 1—debility, 1—suicide, 1—unknown, 2.

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